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Congress and the CIA

Allen Dulles, the former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has reason on his side when he unalterably opposes further Congressional curbs on and controls over the activities of the CIA.

As Mr. Dulles pointed out, we are competing with a system which has developed the arts of espionage and subversion to the greatest degree of perfection yet known. It is inconceivable that our intelligence activities should be further hampered by having to make specific disclosures to Congress.

The CIA is and should remain an agency of the Executive Department of Government whose job it is to supply the Executive with the information needed to form policies in both the foreign and defense spheres. It is not intended to be an arm of Congress.

No agency can be perfect, and the CIA has undoubtedly erred in some of its evaluations in the past. However, by no stretch of the imagination would its accuracy be improved by making it more responsive to Congress.

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